

Application No: 09/309,453

Filing Date: May 11, 1999

Group Art Unit: 2771

Examiner: T. Pardo

Atty. Docket No: 102396-7

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- B. bypassing the file system, in part, in responding to at least a first selected access request applied by the third server node to the file system, such bypassing including transferring data designated by that request between the third server node and the peripheral device over the fifth communications pathway in accord with administrative information maintained by the file system pertaining to storage of that data on the peripheral storage device.

REMARKS

Please note the new Attorney Docket number applicable to this patent application.

With this Response, the claims are amended to correct the clerical errors noted by the Examiner, and the omission of a claim 31 from the application is corrected by re-numbering the original claims 32-40 as claims 31-39; where applicable, the antecedent claim number is also corrected, so that each of claims 31 to 39 (as so re-numbered) and its dependence are now clear. Thus the claims 31-39 may now be properly examined.

In addition, independent claim 1 is amended to remove the recitation "B" of claim 1 and the recitation of data transfer from the peripheral device via the second node, with the corresponding features also being removed from the other independent claims 18, 38 (as re-numbered) and the preamble of independent claims 27 and 29. The amendment is believed to more directly recite the file system and bypass aspect of the systems of applicant's invention.

Applicant's attorney notes the obviousness-type double patenting issue raised by the Examiner, but in view of the amendments herein, requests that such issue be addressed later



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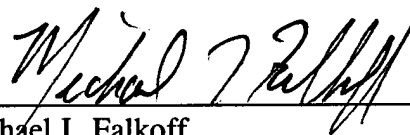
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during prosecution, if the Examiner still considers it applicable, after allowable subject matter has been indicated. Formal drawings will be submitted in due course.

Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner enter the amendments presented herewith, reconsider the application, reexamine the claims, and allow all claims at this time. If any other matter is found to require attention before allowance of the application, applicants' attorney requests the courtesy of a telephone call to discuss and expeditiously address such matter.

Respectfully submitted,
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